Steven L. Beshear Governor

Terry Holliday, Ph.D. Commissioner of Education

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Dear Superintendents and Principals.

The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) are committed to ensuring Kentucky's students are college/career ready and prepared for success. All Kentucky school districts have joined this commitment by signing a pledge -- the Commonwealth Commitment - to increase college and career readiness in their high schools by 50 percent by 2015. Effective advising is an important strategy to reach this goal. It is imperative that all Kentucky students receive the appropriate guidance to acquire the pre-requisite knowledge and skills to be ready for college and/or career.

Therefore, we have set aside March 12-16, 2012 for Operation Preparation. This week will focus attention on the importance of advising and provide a powerful opportunity for schools, students, parents and communities to collaborate in the college- and career-planning process.

Operation Preparation will provide every 8th- and 10th-grade student access to college/career advising. Schools may also choose to include 9th graders as they see fit. Using a student's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and EXPLORE/PLAN data, a community advisor will guide the student through a process that will help them prepare for their future as they move through high school and beyond. Potential advisors will receive training and be provided guidance on effective advising strategies in order to ensure a positive experience for all.

With the support of various partners, KDE is developing a toolkit of resources to assist schools in the implementation of Operation Preparation. The toolkit will include a letter for soliciting community advisors, training materials, examples of how activities may be structured, sample press releases and promotional items, and an instrument to collect feedback from students and community advisors.

Your support of Operation Preparation is vital as we strive to achieve college/career readiness for all Kentucky students. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Terry Holliday, Ph.D.

Kentucky Commissioner of Education

Beth Brinly

Kentucky Commissioner of Workforce Investment

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